UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/888,222	06/22/2001	Samuel Yin Lun Pun	P-2177	7524

7590 04/21/2006

James D. Ivey
Law Offices of James D. Ivey
3025 Totterdell Street
Oakland, CA 94611-1742

EXAMINER	
ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2626	

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/888,222	YUN, SAMUEL LIN PUN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angela A. Armstrong	2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *23 January 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-40* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

2. Claims 1-24, 27, and 29-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al (US Patent No. 4,531,119) in view of Krueger et al (US Patent No. 5,999,950).

3. Regarding claim 1, Nakayama discloses a method for generating Japanese text in response to signals generated by a user (col. 1, line 63 to col. 2, line 5) comprising; determining that one or more predicted words include any syllable of each of the one or more sets of syllables (col. 2, lines 51-62); presenting the one or more predicted words to the user for selection (co l. 2, lines 51-62).

Nakayama fails to specifically teach that the signals generated by the user specifies one or more phonetic symbol categories each of which includes one or more syllables and at least one of which includes two or more syllables.

Krueger discloses a Japanese text input method using a keyboard with only base kana characters, wherein the first selection of a character key causes the display of the character in base kana form. A second consecutive selection of the same key causes the display of the character in a first variant form. Subsequent consecutive selections of the character cause the display of the character in further variant forms (Table 5). Krueger specifically teaches (col. 6, lines 20-32) the invention allows the entry of Japanese text with a smaller array of keys and without the need to move the cursor to modifier keys in order to enter characters derived from the base set. Krueger further teaches that the reduced set of keys produces a more easily readable keyboard, especially if the keyboard is a virtual or on-screen keyboard displayed on a display device, and that the keyboard

arrangement also reduces the total number key presses since variations of a certain base kana character are accessible through subsequent entries of the that same key rather than through the selection of an additional separate key.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakayama to provide for a Japanese text input method using a reduced set of keys, as suggested by Krueger, for the purpose of producing a more easily readable keyboard displayed on a display device.

Regarding claim 2, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses the one or more collections are each associated with a respective consonant (col. 3,lines 4-10).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses a vowel one of the one or more collections is associated with a null consonant (col. 3, line 4-10).

Regarding claims 4 and 29, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses one or more collections correspond to a fifty sounds table (col. 2, line 51 to col. 3, line 64).

Regarding claims 5-6, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses the signals generated by the user specify each of the one or more collections in response to a corresponding single key press (col. 2, line 51 to col. 3, line 64).

Regarding claims 7-8 and 30-32, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses determining the kanji representation of each of the one ore more predicted words and presenting the one or more predicted words comprises presenting the kanji representation of each of the one or more predicted words (col. 2, lines 51-62)

Regarding claim 27, the combination of Nakayama and Krueger discloses implementation on a computer (figure 1).

Regarding claims 9-16, 17-24, and 33-40; the claims are similar in scope and content to claims 1-8 and 29-32 rejected above, and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

4. Claims 25-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Krueger and further in view of Ho et al (US Patent No. 6,307,541).

Regarding claims 25-26 and 28, neither Nakayama nor Krueger disclose the system for generating Japanese text is implemented via a wireless telephone or text messaging device. Ho discloses a method and system for inputting characters through virtual keyboards from a mobile phone (Figures 2-6). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Nakayama for implementation in a wireless phone or text messaging device, as suggested by Ho, for the purpose of providing inputting of Japanese characters at a high speed in a convenient and efficient manner to mobile and wireless users..

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-40 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Krueger et al (US Patent No. 6,098,086) discloses a Japanese text input method using a limited Roman character set.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Angela A. Armstrong

Angela A Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626

AAA
April 17, 2006